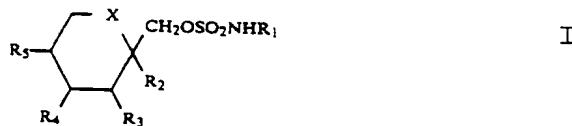


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating obesity in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment at least one weight-loss promoting anticonvulsant and at least one compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine in amounts such that said treatment is effected.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant is of the formula (I):



wherein X is CH<sub>2</sub> or oxygen,

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or alkyl,

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl, and when X is CH<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> can be alkene groups joined to form a benzene ring and when X is oxygen, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> and/or R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> together can be a methylenedioxy group of the following formula (II):

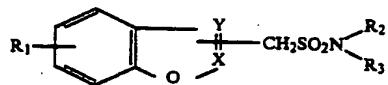


wherein

$R_6$  and  $R_7$  are the same or different and are hydrogen, lower alkyl or are alkyl and are joined to form a cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl ring.

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen or a  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl, straight and branched chain, and  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are a  $C_1-C_3$  alkyl, straight or branched chain.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant is of the formula (III):



wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen or a halogen atom,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are the same or different and are each hydrogen or an alkyl having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and one of  $X$  and  $Y$  is a carbon atom and another is a nitrogen atom, provided that the group  $-CH_2SO_2NR_2R_3$  is bonded to the carbon atom of either of  $X$  and  $Y$ , or an alkali metal salt thereof.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant is zonisamide or topiramate.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine effects said enhancement via uptake inhibition.

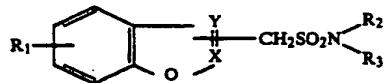
7. The method according to claim 1 wherein said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine is bupropion, Atomoxetine or Reboxetine.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant and said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine are administered separately.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant and said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine are administered concurrently.

10. A method of reducing the risk of hypertension, diabetes or dyslipidaemia in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need of such reduction at least one weight-loss promoting anticonvulsant and at least one compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine in amounts such that said reduction is effected.

11. A method of treating obesity in mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a compound of formula (III):



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or a halogen atom, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are the same or different and are each hydrogen or an alkyl having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and one of X and Y is a carbon atom and another is a nitrogen atom, provided that the group -CH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub> is bonded to the carbon atom of either of X and Y, or an alkali metal salt thereof, in an amount sufficient to effect said treatment.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein said compound is zonisamide.

13. A composition comprising at least one weight loss-promoting anticonvulsant and at least one compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine.

14. The composition according to claim 13 wherein said compound is in dosage unit form.

15. The composition according to claim 14 wherein said composition is in the form of a tablet or capsule.

16. The composition according to claim 13 wherein said anticonvulsant is zonisamide or topiramate.

17. The composition according to claim 13 wherein said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine is bupropion.